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SOURCE Minju Sangop.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS NOTEDCollective Factories

The government, in its sincere desire to help raise the living standards of the working masses, has undertaken the task of establishing various collective enterprises such as automobile, bicycle, watch, and dye factories, salt refineries, sign shops, creameries, laundries, etc., in different communities. These factories are being built and will be managed by the state for the good of the people.

Central Bookstore

The Korean Democratic People's Republic in order to assist in the advancement of the cultural life of Korean people has formulated a policy concerning the state-managed bookstores. This policy is stated in Cabinet Decision No 70, as follows:

"The Korean Democratic People's Republic in accordance with provisions of Cabinet Decision No 70, shall establish and maintain the Korean Central Bookstore for the procurement and proper distribution of books and various literatures of both foreign and domestic publications. The Korean Central Bookstore shall be under the management of the Trade Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce, which shall see that branch bookstores be established in various localities according to needs."

State-Managed Marine-Products Store

The Marine-Products Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce in each province shall organize marine-products trading centers to insure smooth distribution. All such trading centers must be properly established not later than 10 December 1948.

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Salt Industry

Workers in the various salt fields succeeded in meeting the 1948 production quota, 120 percent over the preceding year, by the end of September 1948. Now, the workers are busily preparing for even greater production in 1949 as a part of the 2-year people's economic program.

Tobacco Industry

Tobacco shall be distributed by local distribution centers in each province, city, county, and township under supervision of the Ministry of Commerce.

Business Registration

In compliance with Cabinet Decision No 9, reached on 12 November 1948, all business organizations falling in the following classifications must register with government authorities as soon as possible as part of the 2-year economic program:

Class 1. Mining, marine products, forest products, marine transportation, steel mill, manufacturing, storage, insurance, motion picture, and recreation centers.

Class 2. Repair work, land transportation, printing and publication, seal manufacturing, and jobbing.

Class 3. Retail stores, photographic studios, swimming pools, hotels, brokers' offices, law offices, harbor shop, medical-supply stores, and restaurants.

Soybean-Oil Factory

Local representatives of the Ministry of Commerce are going ahead with plans to construct soybean-oil factories in Pyongyang, Hamhung, and Wonsan in an effort to improve living conditions of the workers.

Commercial Leaders' Third Conference

Chang Si-wu, Minister of Commerce, summoned a Third Conference of local chiefs of the Trade Bureau on 29 November 1948 to consider the problem of storage and distribution of consumers' goods during the winter. Following a report by Lee Sang-jo, chief of the Central Trade Bureau, the conference, promulgated the following directives:

a. To insure the smooth flow of commodities, all local chiefs of the Trade Bureau are directed to maintain constant contact with the Ministry of Transportation. Furthermore, it is directed that every local distributor shall maintain a system of continuous survey and determine the need for goods. Such reports shall be submitted to the Central Trade Bureau periodically without failure.

b. Special care shall be exercised to insure immediate shipment of winter commodities such as fresh pollack, fruits, raw cotton, fabric goods, and other marine products.

c. A continuous inventory system shall be maintained for all non-perishable commodities. If certain commodities are found to have been in storage for a long time, a careful investigation shall be made to determine the cause.

d. Adequate warehousing facilities shall be provided to protect commodities from insects, atmospheric conditions, thievery, etc.

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e. A careful study shall be made to ascertain the loading capacity of all trucks and animal-drawn carts to expand transportation facilities as well as to find ways and means to lower the freight expense.

f. Maximum effort shall be made to keep acceptably accurate figures on the quantity of commodities received by every local distributor.

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